

PATLAR

VOICE OF GAY AMERICA

*** Since 1982 ***

FEBRUARY 1990

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Valentine's Day

IN MY OPINION

by Mel Dahl

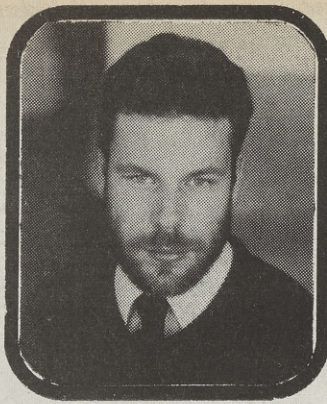
The January 1990 issue of *Focus on the Family* (the monthly bird-cage liner published by the violently homophobic James Dobson) contains an article by a gentleman named Rolf Zettersten on the "sinking credibility of the press." Zettersten complains that the press is "liberal" and "anti-religious" and that *Focus on the Family's* positions are "never represented as" positions "supported by mainstream values." I had been intending to write about the mainstream press for some time (my next column will be on how the mainstream press reports gay issues and the column after that will be on how the mainstream press reports AIDS issues) and so I thank Mr. Zettersten for giving me a good lead-in column: The press as handmaiden of the New Right.

No, I don't really believe the press is the handmaiden of the New Right, but there is some evidence that the New Right thinks it ought to be. First off, it is important to remember that "the press" is not a monolithic entity; it is actually a collection of entities. The *Sacramento Union* is not, thank God, the *New York Times* and Paul Harvey is not 60 Minutes. In terms of fair and objective reporting (which at least some would assert is the duty of the press) some of those entities do a very fine job, and others, well, no self-respecting fish would want to be wrapped in *Focus on the Family*. The theory is that the press is supposed to be fair and unbiased; my sense is that most of the press tries to do that at least some of the time.

The New Right frequently complains about the liberal press, a charge which frankly baffles me. If one looks at the editorial page of any major newspaper, one sees Bill Buckley, Evans & Novak, George Will, James Kilpatrick and William Safire. Surely those are not anti-religious liberals. One also sees liberal columnists, but even a casual survey compels the conclusion that the conservatives are getting at least their fair share of the editorial page.

I grant that the press does not, for the most part, represent the New Right's positions as being "supported by mainstream values," which is another of Zettersten's complaints. But with all due respect (which in this case isn't much), that is because their opinions are not mainstream. The polls are consistent: 70% of Americans believe abortion should remain legal, and politicians who are anti-choice will be standing in the unemployment line come next election. 85% of Americans do not believe the Creation Science Institute's quaint mythology should be taught in public school science classes. 65% of Americans believe that sodomy statutes should be repealed. In sum, the list of issues over which Dobson and Company can plausibly claim to be the majority position is mighty scanty and getting shorter. In fact, at the emotional level, the thing I find most irksome about the Moral Majority people is their insistence, in the face of substantial evidence to the contrary, on pretending that they speak for a majority of Americans. Not only are they the minority opinion on one issue after another, they are a minority with no respect whatsoever for the rights of the majority.

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PATLAR

Voice of Gay America
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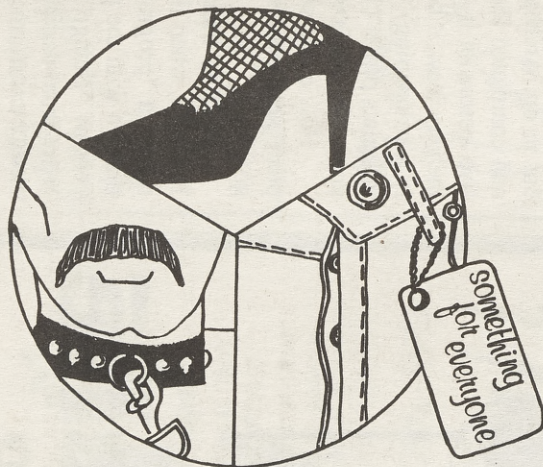
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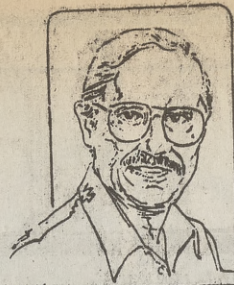
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and extends out into the
darkness of other minds,
transforming them into
majesty."*

*"All things are seen in light
And in the light their pur-
pose is
Transformed and under-
stood."*

My recent piece in this column about A Course in Miracles brought more response from you, the reader, than anything I've ever shared in this space. Thus encouraged, I am opening this with two quotations from the Course, both to better "illuminate" what the Course is and can do, and as further acknowledgement of the unconditional value that the Course has to offer and the limitless new light it has brought not only into my life to the many thousands whose lives it has touched.

I should also confess that I've taken these two quotations from the lovely Christmas card I received in December from Judith Skutch Whitson, who was responsible for "midwifing" the Course through publication and who continues spreading these words of enlightenment through The Foundation for Inner Peace. Thanks, Judy, for reminding me!

The Course states from the beginning that its aim is simply to: "Remove the blocks to your awareness of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance." Or, said in the terms used above, it would be to remove those blocks which lead us to believe we are living in darkness, when the truth about us and about all we see and experience is "light." The purpose, then, is to bring us back into the Light, which is Love, and that is precisely what it sets out to do. And, as those who have "followed through" and completed the Course--all three hundred and sixty-five lessons of it--can attest, it certainly does that. Or, as the very least, it begins the process of opening us (actually a re-opening) to those glimmers of Light and those moments of the clarity of Love so that we come to truly know that this is what we want and have always sought.

How could some written material on a page accomplish such a difficult and seemingly almost impossible goal?

Well, in truth "material on a page" cannot do that. However, when those materials are arranged in the manner of a "programmed text" and you actually follow through with the program, you can participate in the process of "change" which is necessary for any of us to move from darkness into light, and as your own being is slowly transformed by the exercises that you do each day, the light in you begins to grow and the love you have always held, locked in your heart, begins to manifest, lit-

Continued on Page 26 . . . Please see MORE.

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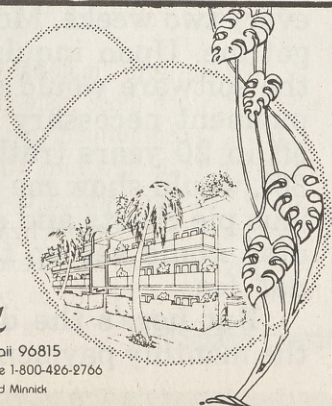
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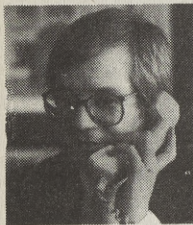
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HORNER'S CORNER

by Lee Horner

*(Second in a series of articles on
fraud, schemes, and gimmicks designed
to separate you from your bankroll.)*

Recently we attended a most interest-
ing event. It was a business opportunity
forum at which probably 40 or 50 differ-
ent franchise, direct-sale, and network
marketing operators were hawking their
particular money-making ventures to the
general public.

I'm all for having your own business,
by the way. After all, free enterprise is
what made this country the success story
it is.

We as a society seem to be caught up
in the generally accepted formula for suc-
cess by getting a good education, by get-
ting a job working for someone else, and
by working hard so as to move up the cor-
porate ladder. Great. But it seems, in my
opinion anyway, that our society is
becoming more oriented toward this
"work for someone else" concept, rather
than "work for yourself."

Certainly working for yourself has a
number of advantages (in my case, I get
to choose which 12 hours in the day I'll
work!) and you can be the architect of
your own destiny, for better or for worse.

Let's overlook the legitimate opportu-
nities for the moment and consider some
of those I consider, shall we say, "border-
line."

I counted at least three people offer-
ing computer software designed to show
the homeowner how to save "thousands of
dollars" by paying their home mortgage
twice a month rather than once. This is a
great idea if the lender will let you pay
every two weeks. Most won't. So curiosity
got me. Upon inquiring, I was told that
the software would compute the monthly
payment necessary to pay my mortgage
off in 20 years (rather than the present
30), would show me the savings with var-
ious pie charts and graphs, and the oper-
ator would set up the plan for a "nomi-
nal" fee.

But here's the deal. They don't send
the monthly payment to the lender twice

Continued on Page 20 ... Please See Horner



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GAY HISTORY

by Terry Boughner

James Stuart, son of the ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots, was born on June 19, 1566 within the gloomy confines of Edinburgh Castle.

From the beginning, there were difficulties. For one thing, no one was quite sure who his father was. For another, four days shy of his first birthday, his mother was forced to abdicate. She fled to England, never to return, and James became James VI of Scotland.

The boy king lived a loveless life. He had been placed under the care of the Earl of Mar, a strict, dour man who believed that affection would spoil the boy and that God forbade pleasures of all kinds. To make his point, the Earl decorated James's bedroom all in black.

As the young king entered his teens, he proved to be neither ugly nor stupid. In fact, he was rather good looking and was what we today would call an "intellectual" which, may I add, is never a good characteristic for kings to possess, especially English monarchs who should never be too bright.

But there was one other thing about James that most of his biographers call "a disconcerting tendency." He had no interest whatsoever in women.

The first of his loves of record was his cousin, Esme Stuart. Esme arrived from France in 1579. He was 16 with a simmering sensuality that penetrated James's bleak life like a laser. The young king fell and fell hard writing to his beautiful cousin that he was his "Phoenix" and "object sweet."

Esme responded with equal feeling.

The Scots Lords were having none of this and James, too young to resist, was forced to send Esme into exile, crying bitter tears as he did so. To these, Lord Ruthvan responded that it was "Better that bairns should weep than bearded men."

James never forgot this heartlessness and never forgave. When he became king in his own right in 1583, one of James's first acts was to invite Lord Ruthvan's 18-year-old son on a hunting trip and to seduce him. Then, having filled his needs, the king pointedly would have nothing more to do with the youth.

Despite numerous male sex partners, James did his duty to the throne. At age 24 he married Ann of Denmark by whom he had seven children. Do we call him bisexual? Perhaps. But keep in mind that his strongest emotions were, by his own statement, always reserved for men.

Elizabeth I died in 1603 and James, as her heir, came to the throne of England as James I. With

Continued on Page 18 . . . Please See HISTORY.

RELATIONSHIPS

by D. Preston Dillon
Psychotherapist

Our topic this month is building a respectful, conscious understanding of "commitment." The word commitment can strike fear when first mentioned in relationships. It can also sound like a perfect rescue for a life that feels unfulfilled. The word commitment is loaded with meaning, is rarely talked about, and is often the key to harmony or great pain in relationships. It is critical for sanity and safety to define the meaning of commitment in your relationship.

Commitment means entrusting yourself with another. It is a promise, an obligation, and a responsibility. It is a special agreement to pay attention to this person in intimacy. Commitment requires trust, vulnerability, and patience. You decide together what it means to you as a couple. It is not one sided. Commitment is a dialogue with your significant other on issues that form the foundation of your relationship. Some issues that are critical to consider include: sexual expression, finances, substance use, family obligations, time together, length of commitment, and practical living arrangements.

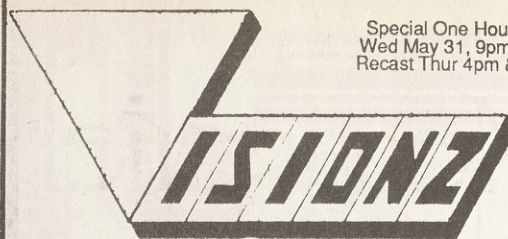
The commitment is also to yourself. It requires communication and continuous dialogue about what matters to you. It does not depend on what you were raised to believe, your past relationships, other couples' definitions, religion, or the latest best-selling book or workshop. It depends on what you and your lover want to make of your partnership. Some or all of what you have learned will contribute to your choices; there are very few shoulds. You can be as creative as you like. Fear, distrust, and ulterior agendas destroy commitment.

Purpose: Making a commitment is not for the purpose of achieving power over another to fill your deep loneliness or to become acceptable to groups. Commitment will not fill up the wounds in self-esteem or solve abandonment issues. Commitment is a way of being with another that promotes your growth and self love. You have a preference for being with this person and feel comfortable sharing feelings at deeper levels than with family or friends. It is not an addiction, a place to hide, security, or a step ladder to success. Commitment is a place for surrender, compassion, and mutual give-and-take. It is a safe place for honesty, trust, loving feedback, and personal change. Commitment in relationship can be one of the most growthful and exciting aspects of your life.

Shaping commitment: What is your commitment about? Is this a preliminary commitment to evaluate the possibility for deeper involvement? Or are you ready to design a long-term agreement? What type of commitment worked for you in the past? The mistakes you made and the successes you produced will provide a foundation to make new choices for your current relationship. It is important to be clear about how you feel and what you want. It is not enough to ask what your partner wants; you have to be willing to give. As you shape your commitment, consider time, space, attention, expectations for the present, and future goals. It is not useful to bring in your past grief, anger, fear, expectations, dreams, or negative behavior. Your current commitment is an opportunity for you to grow and stretch beyond the limits of your past.

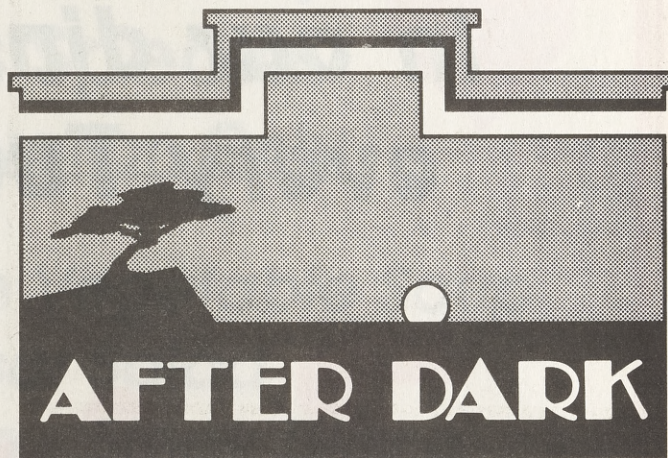
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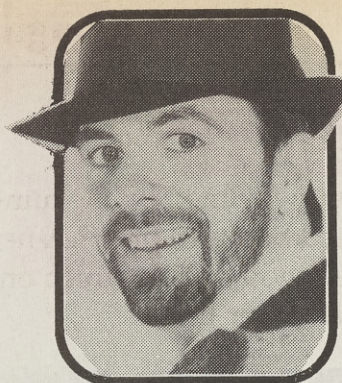
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THE NEXT WAVE

by Douglas N. Lewis

Now that we're one month into 1990, I can look back and say with a certain amount of certainty that 1989 was one hell of a year! Everyone I've spoken to says 1989 was one of the most emotionally devastating years in recent memory. Too many traumas, too much loss, too many upheavals, too many things that just got in the way and fouled things up. Not just the San Francisco earthquake, not just our stricken planet, not just Hurricane Hugo, not just scandal and corruption in the halls of government and religion, but on an individual level: personal hurricanes, private quakes and searing moral dilemmas and loss. 1989 was a year of challenges, of learning how to take it, of concentrated astonishment at our own reflections, of facing moral choices and questions and of getting to the root of ourselves, whether we wanted to or not. Life has a way of forcing us to face that which we would rather not.

My big philosophical discovery during 1989 was: *If it don't kill you, it makes you stronger*. The ringing of this particular truth echoed in my heart and mind all year. It's something that I've always known on some intellectual level, but during 1989 its profound truth made itself known to me with undeniable force.

It's always amazed me how people

*... If it don't kill you,
it makes you
stronger ...*

bounce back from catastrophe. I watched several friends die of AIDS during 1989, and it still never ceases to amaze me how nobly and courageously these friends and their families handled this situation. You reach a point, while going through the death of a loved one, when you wonder how you will go

Continued on Page 24 ... Please See WAVE.

Sorting Through The AIDS Literature



Are you feeling overwhelmed by the hundreds of AIDS-related books in print? A new bibliography can help you decide which ones are worth your time.

* * *

A Bibliography of AIDS-Related Books was prepared as a public service by Alyson Publications. Eleven reviewers, booksellers AIDS activists, and educators were asked to grade and briefly comment on the books they knew from a list of 200. In the resulting bibliography, each evaluator's comments and grades are listed for each title. Thus the listings not only indicate which titles were universally liked (Paul Monette's *Borrowed Time* received all A's) but also which are controversial (Louise Hay's *You Can Heal Your Life* got every grade from B to F).

Other widely praised titles included *AIDS: A Self-Care Manual* by the AIDS Project of L.A.; *AIDS: The Women* edited by Ines Rieder and Patricia Ruppelt; and *Valley of the Shadow* by Christopher Davis.

* * *

At the other end of the spectrum, the William Masters' book *Crisis: Heterosexual Behavior in the Age of AIDS* received all D's and F's. So did David Black's *The Plague Years*. And *Healing Ourselves Through AIDS* by Naboru Muramoto received an F from Richard Labonte, the only bookseller familiar with it; "Hug-a-teddy twaddle," wrote Labonte.

* * *

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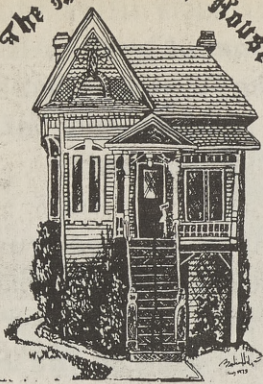
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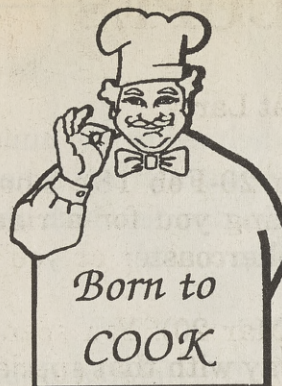


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or
frozen well drained

Mix the softened Kool Whip and condensed milk in a large bow. Remember this calls for condensed milk, not evaporated milk. To the mixture fold in the lemon juice until it thickens. Add the crushed pineapple and strawberries. If these items are not well drained, the pie may never firm up; you would hate not to have it get firm or hard, wouldn't you? Pour into pie shell and chill in the frig overnight or at least 4 hours. Decorate with fresh strawberry halves cut in the shape of hearts.

Grandma always keeps the ingredients on hand just in case unexpected friends drop in. This recipe can be "whipped" up in just a few minutes and always gets raves, but then you know how some queens will carry on!

Until next month:

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HOROSCOPES

by Dr. Pat Larr

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): That special someone's taking you for a ride. Time to get off his rollercoaster or you'll wind up broke.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): You spend a happy Valentine's Day with that special someone in the Tunnel of Love. Enjoy!

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): That special someone wants to know the naked truth or you'll be in for a dressing down. Better fess up.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Cupid's arrow hits you where you live. This Valentine's Day you'll be all a quiver.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Yes, he may be a doll, but he's got "hustler" written all over him. The stars say you can't afford him.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): It's long, thick, un-cut, and hard as a rock. What is it? You'll find out on Valentine's Day. Enjoy!

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): A humpy salesclerk gives you special handling mid-month. Will you be return customer? You bet your life!

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): That little man with the squeezeable rear end is after you in a big way. You'll have to get to the bottom of this.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): A needed boost at work does wonders for your outlook in general. A big raise is just the charge you needed.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): A curious personal ad puts you in touch with a sensual experience you won't soon forget. Just go slowly and play it safe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): A sexual workout with a young bodybuilder leaves you gasping and asking for more. Enjoy it while you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): You thought you'd never get a chance at that humpy guy, but he'll be head over heels for you by month's end.

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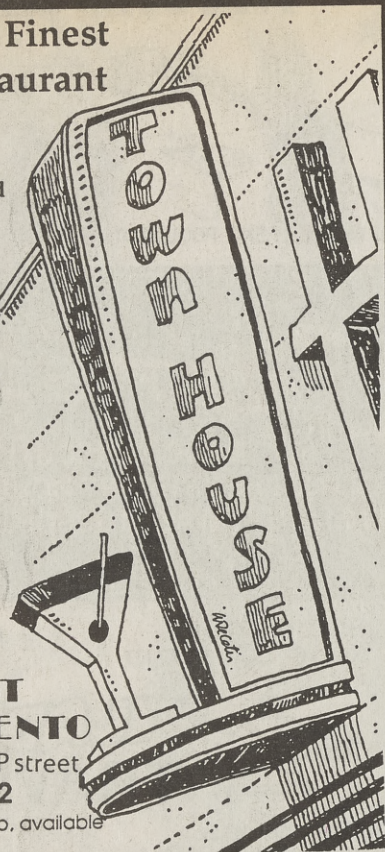
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FAUX PAS

by Ed E. Kett

Dear Ed, What's a modern girl to do? I've gone home with several men recently, not a lot, but several. And when we make it into their bedroom they suddenly realize that they don't have any condoms on hand. This is a real turn-off to a safe-sex type of girl like me. I always assumed that when you invited someone back to your place it was up to you as the host to provide all the amenities--douche, bidet, and condoms. I I wrong? Always ... Rocky

Dear Rocky, A gentleman, like a boy scout, and especially a gentleman who likes boys scouts, is always prepared. There are still a lot of Vulgarians out there who don't know the proper role of host, and then too there are those occasions when a host will accidentally forget to have rubbers on hand. To make sure that you're always dressed for success, always carry a rubber or two in your pocket.

Dear Eddie, A friend of mine recently lost an ex-lover. Well, maybe

. . . What's a modern
girl to do? . . .

the guy would best be described as an ex-affairette. I sent the current lover of the deceased a condolence card, but it wasn't until I heard my friend mention that he'd gotten a card from someone else that I realized that maybe I should have sent my friend a card too. Since he wasn't living with the deceased at the time of his death, I didn't think I needed to send a card. What do you think? Yours ... Charlton

Dear Charlton, Obviously you aren't a child of the Sixties. If it feels good, do it.

Dear Mr. Kett, When I borrow videotapes from m new boyfriend, the tapes he gives me always need to be re-wound. What is he trying to tell me? Ever ... Kevin

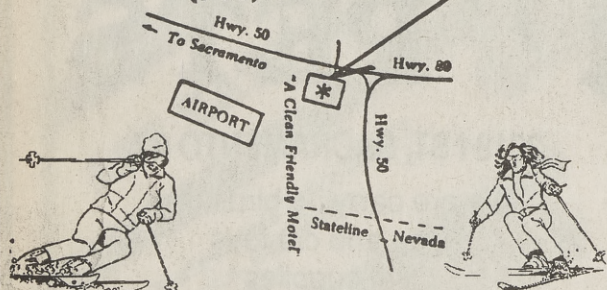
Dear Kevin, He doesn't want to get started with you.

STAY , PLAY & SKI

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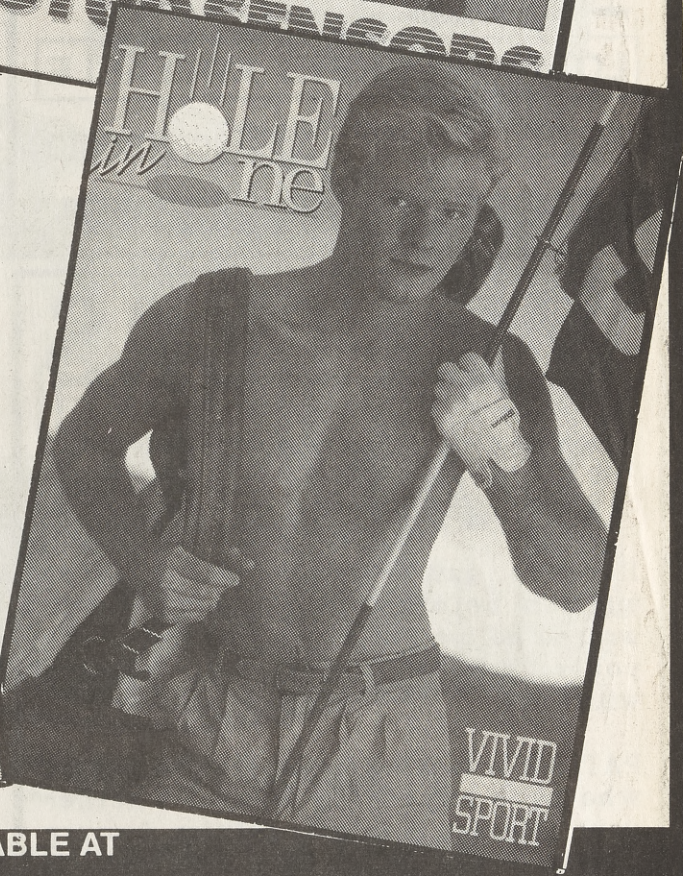
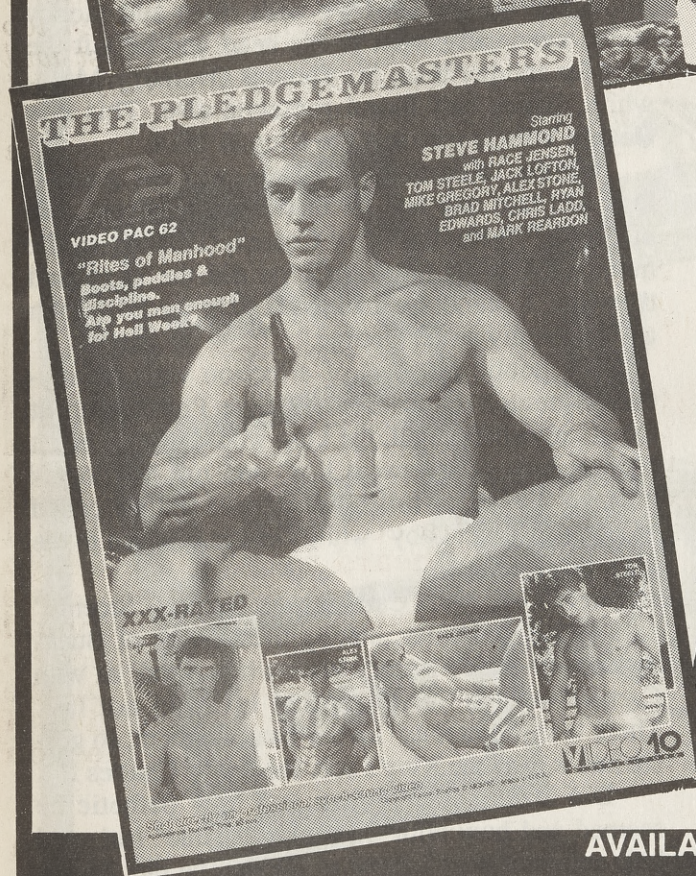
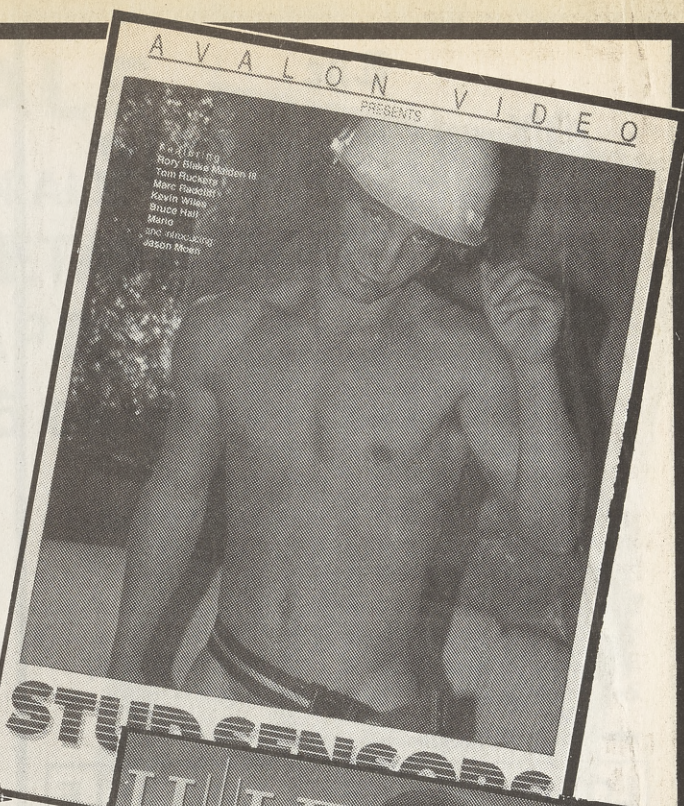
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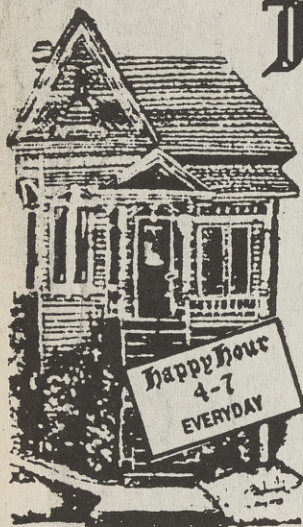


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HISTORY . . . Continued from Page 8.

unseemly haste, he left dank Scotland behind him, determined to be free for the first time in his life.

Keep in mind that Elizabeth had been queen for 40 years and was very nearly a saint in the eyes of her people. James, with his thick brogue and his habit of talking to a person as if, whoever it was, was a crowd, did not sit well. Then, there were the parties attended by the most handsome young men in the kingdom dressed in little more than God had provided. Compared to Elizabeth, James was, as someone said, "Like the peace of God. He passes all understanding."

With all the King's passing fancies, there were two who stood out. The first was Robert Carr, age 20, who met James when the King was 41. The monarch was hopelessly in love and Carr seemed to be as well. They exchanged kisses in public and, in idle moments, while listening to some tedious speaker in Parliament, James was given to pinching young Robert and fondling him between the thighs.

James loaded his love with titles and money which eventually went to his head and he left the king for another man, Sir Thomas Overbury. Meanwhile, James had found someone else. This was George Villiers who met the King in 1614.

Villiers, according to James, was his greatest love and told any and all that "sweet George" was his "wife." When the Privy Council complained, the monarch retorted, "Jesus Christ did the same and therefore I cannot be blamed. Christ had his John and I have my sweet George."

The public displays of affection were, if anything, greater than before. Before Parliament, at Court, anywhere at all, the king would plant a moist kiss on "my wife's sweet lips" and run his fingers through the great, full mass of hair. James called Villiers "Steenie, baby" while George referred to the king as "dad."

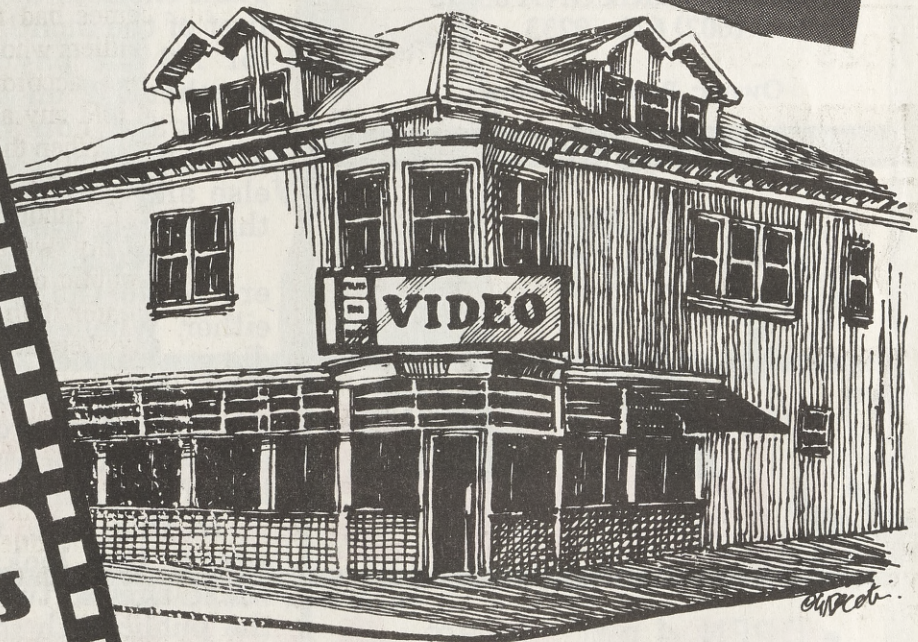
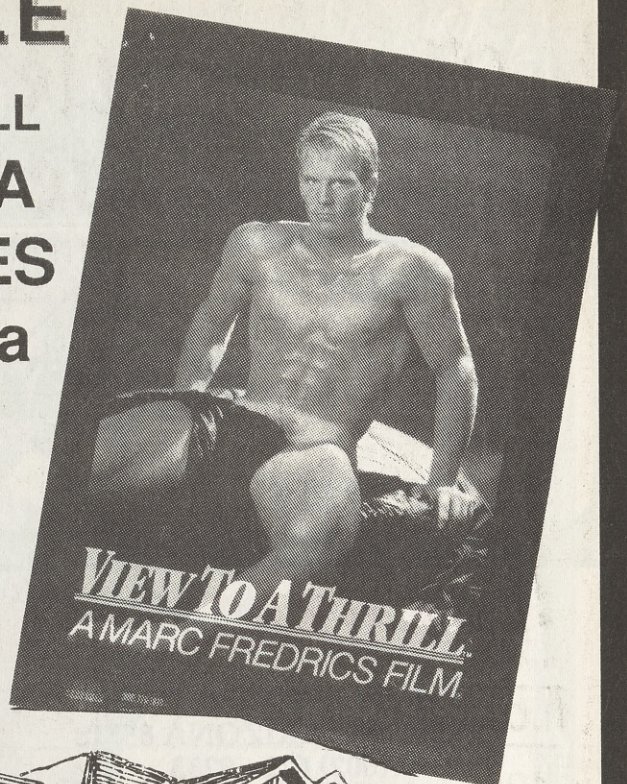
As before with Carr, James heaped "Steenie" with riches and titles, among them Duke of Buckingham by which history knows him. And, as with Carr, "Steenie's" loyalties and love did not last. There were numerous "lovers"; among them, so gossip had it, was the King's son, the future Charles I.

Did James ever realize just how pathetic he seemed and how both Carr and "Steenie" had used him unmercifully? I think in the end he did. In one of James's last letters to Steenie, the king wrote, "Thy dear dad always misses thee. Doest thou not ever miss him?" No reply, if there was one, has been preserved.

James died on March 27, 1625. An autopsy revealed that his body was sound but that his blood was full of melancholy. Not accurate medically, I suppose, but the diagnosis does have about it the ring of poetic truth.

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HORNER ...Continued from Page 6

monthly--they do it once a month. What you do is pay the operator 1/2 of a 20-year mortgage payment every two weeks which he presumably puts in a bank account and, for this modest fee, sends the total to your mortgage holder on the first of the month. Why is that a problem? For one thing, why do I need to send money to him to send to pay on MY mortgage? No one could really answer that one.

Being sold on the idea of paying the bank off early, why couldn't I get an amortization table from the library, compute the 20-year payment on a loan of the size I now have, and just send that to the bank on the first with the regular payment? After all, that's what THEY were going to do--and for a service charge yet!

And, as I have done in the past, if one giant check is too much to handle on the first of the month, why not write out one for 1/2 the payment on the 15th and another 1/2 on the first and send the mortgage company TWO CHECKS? Frankly, when I was working for someone else and getting paid every two weeks, that system worked great for me.

So why do I need these software sellers to do that? I don't and you don't either. Whenever someone offers to handle your money for you for a fee or otherwise, always consider the prospects that the individual won't do as he promises, and what recourse do you have against him if he doesn't?

In this case, there is no regulatory agency that looks over those who purchase this software and then approach the public with this "pay me your mortgage payment" program. They are not bonded. They are not licensed. They are not supervised by anyone!

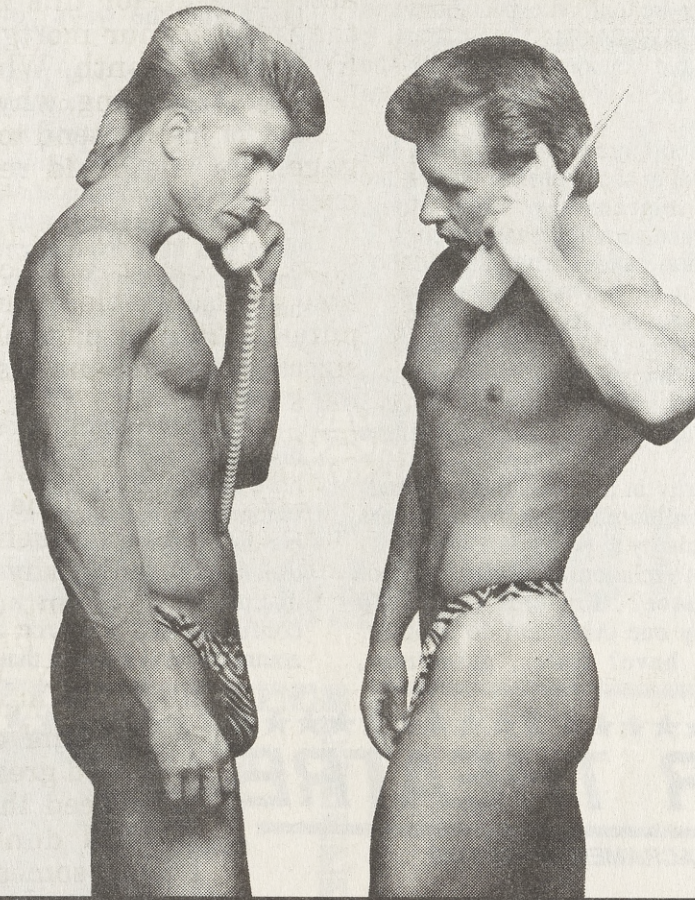
My advice is to pay your mortgage off early if you want, and if you want to divide up the higher payment in two monthly payments, go ahead. Just send it directly to your mortgage holder and not some third party who promises to "forward" it for you.

Next month: Multi Level business vs. pyramids--the good, the bad, and the downright ugly! We'll talk again.

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Boundaries. Commitment is supported by boundaries. The purpose of boundaries in commitment is for safety and sanity in relationships. Boundaries are the limits that both individuals agree upon for being in the relationship. Boundaries may be set for flirtatious behavior, other lovers, topics of conversation, time together, and time spent with friends or family, amount of money to be spent on what, and sexual expression. You define the issues. Boundaries are built on expectations and should be discussed outside of arguments. Commitment is an agreement about issues and boundaries that make the relationship safe for growth for both partners. Boundaries diminish abandonment issues.

Time: Some commitments are forever. Others last until the passion dies, a move or social change occurs, the criticism is too much, or someone else comes along. Length of commitment can and should be negotiated. It is reasonable to make a commitment for six months and then to re-evaluate the relationship. Or you may want to make a commitment for a year, five years, or thirty years--but have a plan. During this time you are searching for insights and answers: Am I happy when I am with this person? Do they want some of the important things I want? How do we get along? Is there room for changes without chaos or pain?

Clarity: Achieving clarity in a commitment depends on communication and continuous dialogue. Here are several steps to bring more clarity to your relationship.

1. Evaluate your parent's relationship. What kinds of commitment did they have? How did they keep commitment? Did they say one thing and do another? What support did they have? Rules, guidelines,

boundaries? How did you feel in the family about your security and their commitment to you? Were you disappointed? Did you trust them and were you trusted? Did they rationalize and make excuses when things fell through or were agreements ignored? What kinds of these behaviors do you do now? How do your attitudes interfere with your current commitment? Awareness gives you the power to change the kinds of responses you have to your lover and the ways you may be sabotaging your commitment.

2. Examine your past relationships for these same kinds of questions. Examine the meaning commitment has had for you and how you may have changed. Look for patterns with relationships and how you handled trust, agreements, communication, and honesty in commitment.

3. Now sit down with your lover and talk about the ways you have experienced commitment in your family and with past lovers and how this has affected you. Take time to listen to your lover's concerns, patterns, and fears about commitment. From here you can both design a unique agreement that supports both of you in love and growth.

Caution: Commitment is an issue that should be discussed openly and regularly in your relationship. We have all been conditioned from the same fairy tales. Keep in mind that individuals change with age and insight. Your commitment must be flexible enough to contain these changes or it becomes a prison. Also, if commitment is not discussed, it remains a secret weapon to continue confusion and a source of manipulation. Honesty in commitment is a thread that weaves a safe nest for loving.

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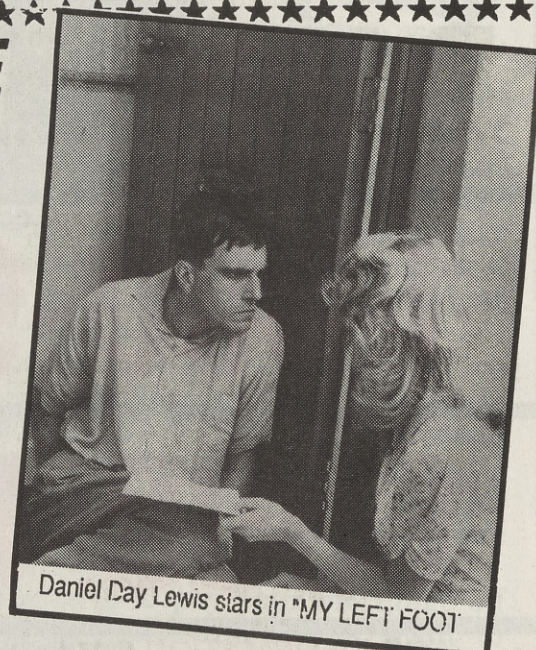
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
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on. You wonder if you can possibly take anymore . . . and then you do. And you go on. Pain becomes an indicator that you're still here, that you're all right. Then pain lessens over time. It has somehow knitted into the fabric of your spirit a resilience and strength that can never be taken away, for no trauma or calamity is stronger than the human heart. I've watched people go through the uprooting of their homes, the loss of jobs and loved ones, and the threat of their own personal demise, and watched as the phoenix rose from the ashes over and over again. Even when the future is cloudy and questionable, people find the strength and courage to get on with their lives. I guess the alternative, giving up, is scarier than not going on at all.

I was told recently that human beings cannot remember pain. You can remember feeling good, or being hurt, but the actual pain cannot be recalled. Maybe that's because pain is transforming itself into wisdom and, there, strength. Maybe it's because pain and suffering are the keys to understanding and depth. Maybe this is God's way of allowing us a respite from being in a world where answers don't exist and questions only exacerbate the confusion of not knowing anything. Maybe we're permitted the freedom of conscious forgetfulness so that we can function every day, while our spirits remember everything, joy and sorrow,

*... It's funny
how pain
brings about clarity. . .*

pain and happiness, grief and birth.

It's funny how pain brings about clarity. Joy doesn't seem to have the same effect. Oh, everybody wants joy, but pain seems to have the more profound impact on our everyday lives and behavior. Joy can be plentiful while skipping across the surface of life (ignorance is bliss!), but pain forces you, under the trappings and illusion of life, into the depths of our beings, and brings with it a perspective that, hopefully, enriches understanding. The old cliché, *How can you know what joy is without pain?*, like most clichés, carries inherently within it a seed of truth: The richness and diversity of life is in experience and perseverance.

So many times I have come out of a painful situation and thanked God for the opportunity to make my life better. I dealt with the deterioration of my own health during 1989 and am surprised and delighted that I am not full to overflowing with despair, or out blathering in the streets. I ask myself what options I have and the answer is always to go on. It seems that even if "it" will kill you, it'll still make you stronger until you die. I'm glad to be alive in 1990, but I carry few illusions about what the rest of my life will bring to me. Mostly, I'm looking forward to pain and joy and to becoming stronger. Mostly, I'm also looking forward to my next pint of Haagen Dazs, friends' laughter, and the love of a good man. Any offers?

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MORE . . . Continued from Page 4.

tle by little and bit by bit until you slowly become more and more a Being of Light and a Beacon of Love. And as you do that, you rediscover your "natural inheritance" of total and unconditional love--or reclaim your birthright.

Thus, the process that is often referred to as "transformation" or "enlightenment" is clearly something that happens within, internally, and which yet, at the same time provides a "transformed" or "enlightened" perception of the world, and thus is not quite accurately called "internal," for that which truly does "change" is both your ownself and the world as you experience it.

Oh, "there is more," of course! Just how much "more" and what variations of the "more" is unique to each individual and when I dare to share just one small "piece" of my experience over the last decade or so since I first encountered *A Course in Miracles*, please know that these are only my experiences, not ideal or perfect ones.

First, one very "practical" example. I, who was forever just pushing the limit of "points" for speeding tickets, began to be stopped less often and, more miraculously, was stopped on occasion and not ticketed! Obviously, I was somehow relating to and experiencing policemen and patrolmen in a new "light," and that somehow affected their perception of me.

Or, my department chairman, a very high-energy southern belle, gradually changed from my daily antagonist and critic to a supporter, and finally a dear and close friend.

All kinds of vague, often unconscious, "fears" gradually began to disappear--and often I was only finally conscious of them when I suddenly realized that they were not longer there.

But perhaps best of all, my church-inculcated fear of "God" as the punishing ultimate disciplinarian evolved into a warm and loving awareness of the most loving and caring and sustaining energy in the Universe. Or, as I've often put it, "God has had a lot of bad press, for that was certainly the case for most of us. But as one moves from a "given belief" in God to an immediate and personal awareness and knowledge of her, all of the old guilt/pain/fear drops away and one can truly begin to live life in the assurance of unconditional Love and everlasting and radiant Light!

But, only you can discover all of this for yourself. And, you can begin that process by writing me for a reprint of the first eleven lessons from the Course so you can check it out the only way that is truly valid--for you--and that's in your own experience.

I can think of no more wondrous gift I might be empowered to give you than this opening into a rich and wondrous new life--as well as a most happy and wondrous new decade.

[Ralph H. Walker is creator of The Loving Brotherhood and The ALL NEW YOU Experience. He welcomes your comments and questions at PO Box 556P, Sussex, NJ 07461.]



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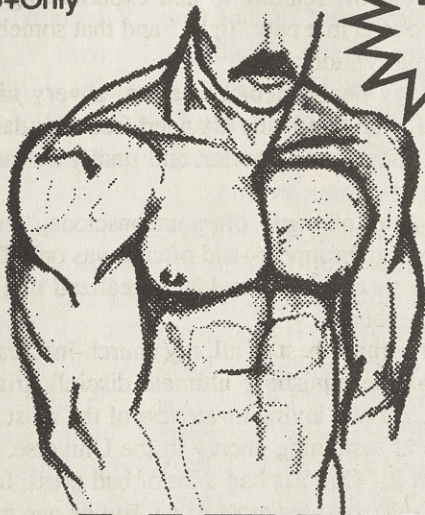
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OPINION . . . Continued from Page 2.

Speaking of that, Zettersten, who had been complaining about press censorship of conservative opinions, brags in the next breath that somebody from his organization filed a complaint with a public school when a homosexual was invited inside to talk to a class. I hate to belabor the obvious, but it is the depths of utter hypocrisy for the New Right to complain about censorship applied to it but to encourage censorship when applied to those of a different opinion. (Incidentally, why is it that when a homosexual is invited to speak to a high school class he is "recruiting," but when a funny-damn-mentalist talks to a class he is merely exercising his First Amendment right to express his views?)

Historically, the conservative wing of the Christian church enjoyed great leeway in suppressing opinions with which it disagreed. For example, in many southern states it was illegal, until the Supreme Court intervened, to teach evolution in public schools. In Canada, the Obscenity Act covered entire subjects: It was illegal to write about homosexuality, regardless of what one said about it, until the Supreme Court of Canada declared that Act a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights. Today, when the New Right complains that its opinions are being censored, my first response is, "Really? By whom?" and my second response is, "What goes around comes around."

Indeed, this is the hidden-agenda item: It isn't that the New Right wants its positions presented fairly and accurately. It isn't that the New Right wants equal time. It isn't even that the New Right wants its opinions given more coverage than public support for those ideas merits. No! What the New Right really wants is for its views and its views only to be given time. Only those opinions deemed "orthodox" will be allowed to be heard at all. Freedom of speech for God's elect, but not for the Devil's advocate. If one of my readers thinks I am being unfair to the New Right, perhaps that reader could explain why the teaching of evolution was illegal throughout the South until the courts intervened.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. If the New Right continues to commit hari-kari on the abortion issue, and if the television preachers could generate just one more major scandal, then the day may come when just by sheer attrition they will be nothing more than a minor bother. In the meantime, you can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, and the people who believe what they read in *Focus on the Family* enough of the time to keep that magazine in circulation.

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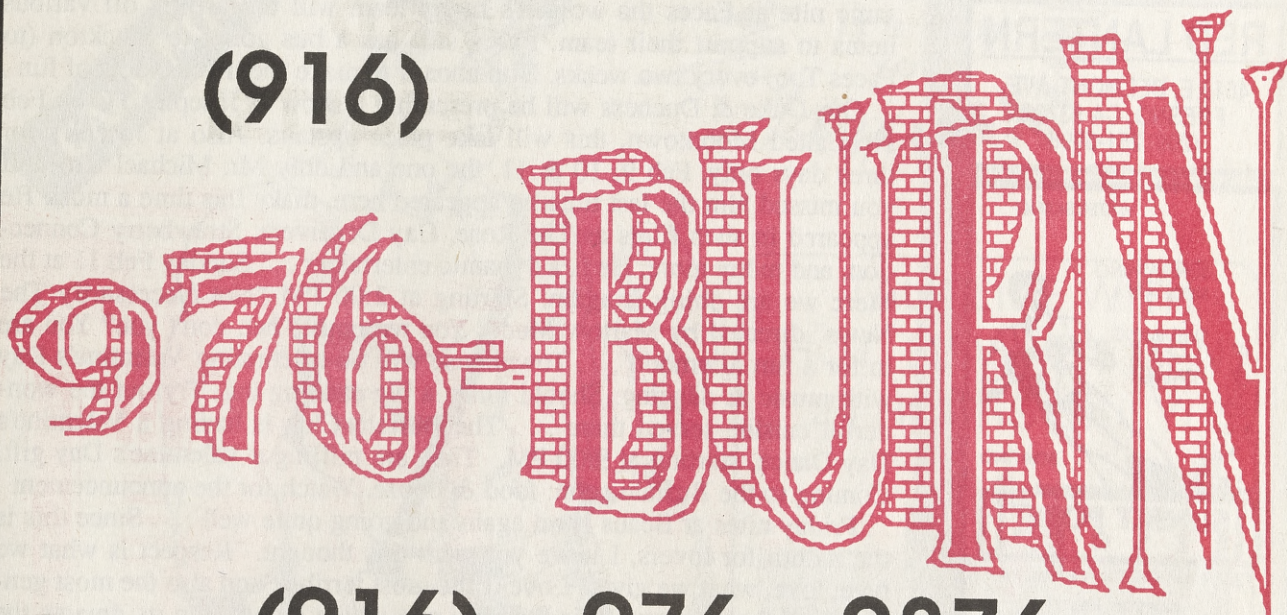
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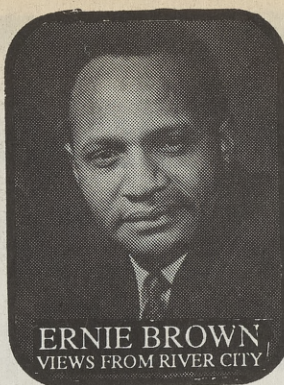
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ERNIE BROWN
VIEWS FROM RIVER CITY

February, the shortest month in the year. And one of the more interesting ones. Especially if you are single. You look around and ask yourself the immortal question: What am I doing on Valentine's Day? If you are lucky, Cupid might hit you beforehand. If not, you might find Mr. Right or Ms. Right at one of the following places . . . Yes, Faces is doing it again. Feb 14 (Valentine's Day) they are having their annual Red & White Ball. On this particular nite, gay men & gay women will come together for a nite of harmony and socializing. That same nite at Faces the women's rugby team will be raffling off various items to support their team. Faces still has a bus going to Stockton (to Faces Too) every two weeks. Hop aboard & make the trip. It's lots of fun . . . Our Duke & Duchess will be presenting a show at Joseph's TC on Feb 10. Called Moontown, this will take place upstairs. Also at Joseph's for three days only, Feb 9, 10 & 11, the one and only Mr. Michael Greer. If you missed him the last time he appeared here, make this time a must. He appeared in such films as The Rose, Gay Deceivers, Strawberry Connection, and many more. He is a dynamic entertainer . . . Sunday Feb 11 at the Merc we are doing it again. Starting at 2:00 PM "Not Necessarily The News" directed by Marlow Mudd. You remember her, don't you? You are in for a fun afternoon . . . Townhouse will be celebrating Valentine's Day with music & dancing. Should make a big evening out. Try out the wonderful cuisine served there . . . The Buffalo Club is having a Valentine's Day Dance, starting at 9:00 PM. They are raffling a Valentine's Day gift. Coming to the Buffalo soon: food & booze. Watch for the announcement . . . Friday nites at Beaus is on again and going quite well . . . Since this is the month for lovers, I leave you with this thought. "Respect is what we owe; love, what we give." Love is the most terrible, and also the most generous, of the passions; it is the only one which includes in its dreams the happiness of someone else.

FAUX PAS

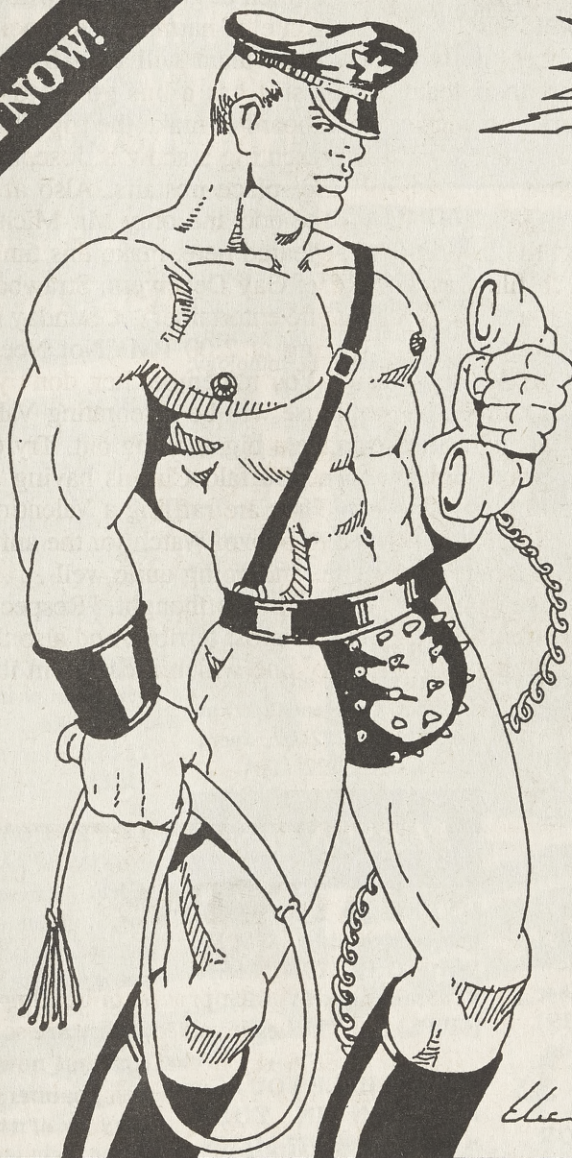
by Ed E. Kett

Dear Edwards, I am a hairdresser in the process of building a house from the ground up. Aside from the headaches involved, there are some perks that go along with the job. One of those perks is the fact that now I seem to be constantly surrounded by all these humpy carpenters, painters, electricians, and even plumbers. They may be gorgeous, but most of these guys are straight, so I keep a drool but don't touch attitude. The problem is they assume I'm straight too and they all speak "sports" as a second language. Anything more strenuous than a finger wave is Greek to me so when these guys ask me what I think about the big game, I usually have no idea what they're talking about. What should a gentleman do? I don't think I have been able to snow them very well so far. Some of these guys look pretty tough, and if they can't tell that they're working for a flaming faggot, I don't want to give myself away. Sincerely . . . Greg

Dear Greg, Don't be so fun shy. Just because you don't know anything about "sports" doesn't mean you're queer. Focus on the work. These gentlemen are your employees after all. So if you meet a cute bricklayer who wants to talk about jump shots just ask to see what he's laid lately.

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FLAGS, the Foothill Lesbian and Gay Society, holds a monthly potluck the second Saturday of each month. For more information write FLAGS, P.O. Box 4982, Auburn, CA 95604 [05AS]

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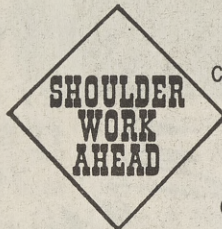
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GWM, 600 months old, is available to meet a man who is friendship/relationship oriented. An affectionate, carrying & nurturing personality gets a plus rating. Please respond with phone number to Patlar Ad 6-01, The Patlar, PO box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

GWM, HIV+, 33, good health, seeks other HIV+, 21-40. Prefer top, for fun, loving & friendship. Write: G.C. PO Box 6896, Reno, NV 89513-6896. [09PL]

GWM, affectionate, sincere, early 40s, 6', 150#, looking to meet someone similar, 35-45 for a monogamous, loving relationship as a lover or a friend. Write Patlar Ad PI 146, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

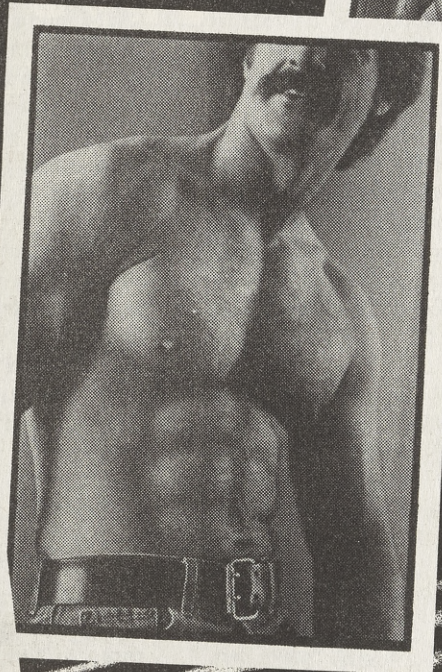
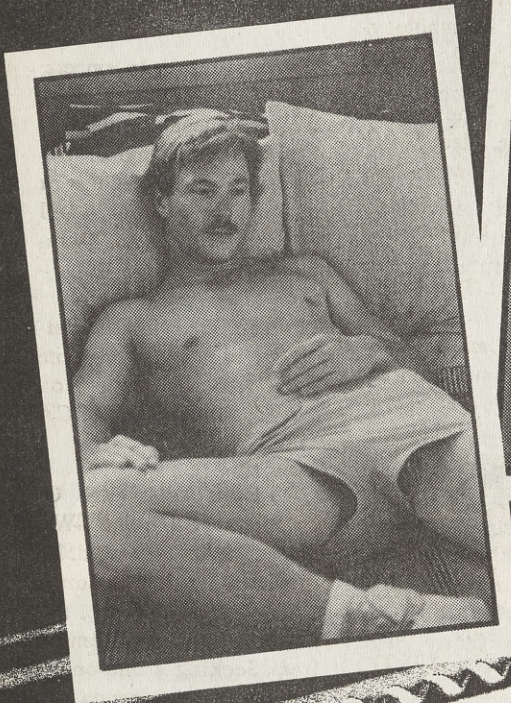
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GWM, intelligent, sensitive (presently incarcerated) wants to establish correspondence with a person of high values and understanding. If you need a friend, so do I. Ricardo (Rick) Gallo, PO Box 1989-23128, Ely, NV 89301. [03PL]

CORY PYHTILA, I miss you. Please call Gillis of Reno, NV at (702) 329-7129. [02PL]

BLACK MALE, 40 seeks guy, any race (30-50) for friendship/relationship. Send letter & photo to Lee, PO Box 163662, Sacramento, CA 95816. [012PL]

HAL, hope all is well with you these days. Give me a call sometime. My phone # is the same. Have a Happy Valentine's Day. LL [02PL]

Patlar, February 1990, Page Thirty-six

NATIVE AMERICAN master "warrior guide" seeks young students for training: Physically fit, obedient, brave. Non-indians welcome. Resume & photo to: Topa, General Delivery, Placerville, CA 95667. [08PL]

GWM, 35, STRAIGHT ACTING, OUTGOING, PROFESSIONAL. SEEKING FRIEND for long lasting relationship. I'm good looking, 6', 175#, like quiet times, movies, traveling, and most importantly spending quality time with quality man. You should be 25-39, not into drugs, no fats or fems. Photo/phone to PO Box 191328, Sacramento, CA 95819. [02PL]

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GWF desires open, fun, physical friendship, any age, area. Independent, 40y, career, children. Non-smoker, social drinker. Write to D.W., 8626 N. Lower Sacramento St., 18-358, Stockton, CA 95210. [11PL]

GWM, 28, 140, brown hair, brown eyes. Looking for new people interested in meeting & more. Call (916) 383-6526. Ask for Jon. No calls after 8:00 PM. [02PL]

GWM 41, seeks non-smoker/drinker GWM 21/30 for companionship or possible permanent relationship. I enjoy movies & dining out. Please write: Patlar (PL-152), PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [04PL]

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE to care for my grandmother in your home. Call (916) 441-7825. [05JS]

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GWM, mid-aged, seeks fun-loving younger guy with serious side for friendship, company, possible relationship. I like sparkling eyes, mischievous grins, outdoors, quiet cuddling, sunsets. I value honesty, compassion, caring, intelligence, open-mindedness. I'm a great dad who needs a son to care for/about. If you think you might "fit the bill" write to: Patlar Ad 6-02, The Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

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HAWIIAN: LATIN LOOKING, LEATHER MASTER. 5'8", 152#, 35, beard, bottom in bed, looking for WGM, slave etc. for friend/lover: call (808) 922-5311 after 5 pm H/T [012PL]

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